

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 45 of 1876.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 4th November 1876.

IN its columns of news, the *Sambád Bháskar*, of the 23rd October, writes that almost all the Anglo-Indian papers have it that our present Lieutenant-Governor is about to retire from office shortly. Whatever impression the people may have about his administrative talents, nobody will, of course, deny that he is most kindly disposed to seek the welfare of every class of people in Bengal, and that his natural tendency to please the subjects is deserving of all praise. Hence we do not believe that no portion of society will feel aggrieved by his untimely retirement.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
October 23rd, 1876.

2. The *Sádháraní*, of the 17th September, writes that the Lieutenant-Governor has failed to do his duty, in not administering adequate punishment to Mr. Kirkwood; who ought to have been at once removed from the service, because of the manifold and enormous oppressions he committed on many persons in Chittagong. The acts of such rash and hot-tempered men, no doubt, cast a grievous stain on the fair fame of the British administration, and cause people to become disgusted with it. We cannot say when the Government will endeavour to reform the Civil Service and curb the oppressions of Magistrates; but until this is done, we can never regard ourselves secure from their acts.

SADHARANI,
September 17th, 1876.

3. Adverting to the well-known Weld case of Madras, the *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 25th October, writes that the Governor, in inflicting adequate punishment on Mr. Weld, has given ample proof that he seeks the welfare of the native subjects, and that it is not his will that any oppression or injustice should be committed on them. As the Duke of Buckingham is of a very noble descent, so he knows how to respect the honor and ranks of great men. The people of Madras have a very great and sincere attachment for him; and they respect and love him with all their hearts. We find, by the measures which the Governor has recently adopted in this notorious case against Mr. Weld, that there is justice in Madras, and that no improper indulgence is allowed to the civilian Magistrates. But in Bengal this is not the case. Here, the civilians do as they please. They receive no check for their most unjust proceedings; and, consequently, not a week passes by, in which we do not hear of some acts of oppression committed by them.

BISHWA SUHRID,
October 25th, 1876.

4. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 27th October, writes that every inhabitant of Bengal will be astounded by the intelligence, that Mr. Rattray, the Superintendent of Police in Chittagong, has been deposed to the rank of Assistant Superintendent; for he was the only officer who discharged his duties most faithfully and justly in the Fennua cases.

BHARAT MIHIR,
October 27th, 1876.

5. The same paper writes:—It has been widely rumoured that on the retirement of Sir Richard Temple, the Hon'ble Ashley Eden will succeed him. However prudent and experienced a man he may be, we want no more

BHARAT MIHIR.

civilian Governors. Bengal has already been much oppressed by them; and, in order to prevent the increase of oppression, the Secretary of State should adopt some better course.

BHARAT MIHIR,
October 27th, 1876.

6. With reference to the question, whether the natives prefer European Judges to their own, the same paper writes thus:—The Editor of the *Indian Daily News* has asserted, that the generality of the people of this country have not any confidence in their native Judges, and have no desire that they should be placed on the seats of English officials. This expression has also been echoed by the *Pall Mall Gazette*. But we have for a long time resided in the villages, and have formed a very close acquaintance with the people there, and thus have come to know their views on the subject. They all, with one voice, give preference to native officers. Ask any litigant or witness, who has at any time stood before an English official, whether he prefers an English to a native Judge. He will at once answer that, as he can speak out his sentiments with greater freedom before the latter than before the former, he prefers his own countrymen to foreigners. Besides, native Judges understand the language, the manners and customs of the natives far better than Europeans.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
October 27th, 1876.

7. In the course of an article headed, Act VII of 1876, the Land Registration Act, the *Moorshedabad Patrika*, of the 27th October, remarks that we see among the first directions given is one for a service of notice to the proprietors and managers of lands, requiring them to apply for the registration of their lands. But there seems to be so much haste about it, that notices have been issued without waiting for the re-opening of the civil courts, though the Act provides that notices should be posted up in these courts. The object of the notices, thus published and posted up when the courts are closed, is not likely to be very satisfactorily met. It has also been enacted that applications for registration should be presented before the 1st of November; but there is so little time now before this date that it will be next to impossible to carry out this order. Registers regarding revenue-paying and rent-free lands are to be prepared; but some of the materials for their preparation cannot be easily obtained. They must be supplied by the zemindars upon notice, within a certain time; in default of which they will be subjected to a fine of Rs. 100 and afterwards a daily fine of Rs. 50. The result of this law might thus be expressed: O Bengal! who can say to what penalties your sons may at every step and every moment be subjected? The Act further provides that the register should show, at one view, the land registered, its area, its revenue, and the rights attached to it. The consequences of this Act, as far as we are now able to judge, will be to entail great inconvenience and trouble on the zemindars, both of revenue-paying and rent-free lands, and many of them will be impoverished by it. It requires that in mouzahwari registers the number and the area of the land in each mouzah should be given by the owners of those two different kinds of lands; but we do not think they will be able to supply the information; for when these lands were surveyed their area was not very clearly ascertained. The Editor then asks the zemindars to be careful and active, and promises to write more on the subject.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA.

8. A correspondent, writing to the same paper, says that the road, extending from Khagura to Cossimbazar, is now in a most wretched condition; and directs the attention of the local municipality to the importance of having it properly repaired, the repairs already undertaken having been very unsatisfactory.

9. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 27th October, observes that it is impossible to tell, with any degree of certainty, why the oppression of Magistrates has increased so much during the administration of Sir Richard Temple. It may be either His Honor is perfectly unable or unwilling to visit them with the punishment due to their acts. He does not thoroughly understand the science of administration. The writer, after enumerating all the instances of magisterial oppression during the present administration, asks Lord Lytton to save the natives from the hands of any future oppressors.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
October 27th, 1876.

10. A correspondent, writing to the same paper, says that, in the district of Nuddea, there is a village called Subarnapore, and inhabited by many noble and educated men. But it is a matter of great regret that its condition is very miserable. Here there are no physicians, no ponds, no good roads, and no justice, notwithstanding the existence of a police. Recently a fearful dacoity took place there, but no proper investigation has been made by the police officers. The writer most earnestly entreats the Lieutenant-Governor to entrust, without delay, some official of higher position to investigate the matter.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI.

11. Another correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the three following streets, mentioned by the writer, owing to the most wretched condition of which, people suffer immense trouble and inconvenience. These streets are first, one extending from Baraset to Krishnagore; secondly, another extending from Jaguli to Naihaty; and thirdly, the last running from Jaguli to Kanchrapara.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI.

12. The *Pratikar*, of the 27th October, writes that the Lieutenant-Governor has most unjustly punished Mr. Rattray, the only man who, in the well-known Fennua cases, discharged his duties most faithfully. The writer then condemns all the actions of Sir Richard Temple with regard to the notorious Chittagong cases; and says that while His Honor is ready to adopt prompt and strict measures against the slightest offences committed by uncovenanted servants, he does not show the same readiness with respect to the most serious offences of covenanted officers.

PRATIKAR,
October 27th, 1876.

13. The *Grámbártá Prakashiká*, of the 28th October, writes that the statement of some of the Anglo-Indian papers, that the natives prefer European Judges to their own, is most unreasonable and utterly groundless. The Editor of the *Englishman* has characterized the whole of the inhabitants of Bengal as illiterate, although he most clearly sees that they come off very successfully in all the most difficult examinations. Why is he so much opposed to the welfare and advancement of natives? Let him be silent. There is no necessity for raising such weak objections against the admission of our countrymen into the higher grades of office.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
October 28th, 1876.

14. With reference to the notorious Fennua cases, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 28th October, writes:—Nothing can be more strange than this, that those who committed great oppression on the poor ryots, some of whom were even killed, have been let off with the imposition of only a very simple fine; while the most heavy punishment has been inflicted on those who came forth as witnesses in favour of the unfortunate tenants. It is a matter of deep regret that the officers, who conducted the trials of these cases, have not been regarded as guilty in the sight of the Lieutenant-Governor, notwithstanding the evident proofs of great injustice. Sir Richard Temple has, moreover, administered no adequate punishment on Mr. Kirkwood, who has also committed most fearful oppression and injustice on Babu Lal Chand

HINDU HITOISHINI,
October 28th, 1876.

Chaudhuri and on Nayantara Chaudhurani, the widow of a rich zemindar in Chittagong.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
October 28th, 1876.

15. Adverting to the case of Babu Kedarnath Banerjee, the Subordinate Judge of Chittagong, who has recently been removed from the service, the same paper remarks that it is a matter of extreme regret, that our rulers make very invidious distinctions between Europeans and natives ; for it not unfrequently occurs that, while the most serious acts of misconduct on the part of the former are very easily overlooked, the slight offences of the latter are visited with the most heavy punishment.

DACCA PRAKASH,
October 29th, 1876.

16. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 29th October, writes that Sir Richard Temple has done much to secure the admiration and affection of the people of this country, who also are grateful to him for his various beneficent acts. But the policy of administration which His Honor has adopted, in order to check the high-handed proceedings of the civilian Magistrates in this country, is not at all satisfactory. He has inflicted no proper punishment on many who have, within the last few months, committed the most terrible acts of oppression and injustice on helpless natives.

SOMA PRAKASH,
October 30th, 1876.

17. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 30th October, directs the attention of the Bhowanipore Municipality to the fact, that great inconvenience is felt by the inhabitants owing to the streets not being watered. The rainy season has passed away, and therefore the Commissioners ought not to remain any longer indifferent to the matter.

SOMA PRAKASH.

18. In the course of an article headed, "The new law on the partition of estates," the same paper remarks that, though it is good in many respects, still it is open to two very serious objections—first, the demand by Government on the proprietors of estates of charges incurred for making partitions, and the laying out of the money in the payment of Deputy Magistrates. We do not think that a single person, among those who have a little knowledge of the mofussil, will approve of this measure. Already there are several demands made upon the zemindars; and if, in addition to them, this new one be made, most of them will be surely ruined. Hence, instead of appointing separate officers for the purpose of conducting suits for the partition of estates, it would, we think, be advisable that such suits be heard by the officials who now remain attached to the several courts in this country, with the only condition that they should administer justice according to this new Act. If this be so, the wealthy men here will, no doubt, feel themselves highly indebted to Sir Richard Temple for enacting such a good law. Secondly, the necessity of taking the permission of the Collector even when the partition of an estate is made by mutual agreement. This ruling is highly unpalatable. It is a firm and long-cherished impression of the people of this country that no injustice or partiality is shown by an arbiter; and the latter too has a great dread of committing any act of injustice while intermeddling with matters of other men; and hence also he makes every effort to arbitrate justly. Where then is the need of taking permission from a Collector, in cases where an estate is divided by men who are selected for the purpose by the owners of the land? In conclusion, the editor asks the Lieutenant-Governor to remove the defects of the new Act by rectifying the two above-mentioned faults in it. The laws enacted by our Government are not like those of Menu, that they cannot be altered or amended when once penned. It is needless to say more. Suffice it to say that, if the two faults pointed out be not rectified, the Act, instead of occasioning any good to the county, will, doubtless, be productive of great evil to it.

19. The same paper writes that the preparations for the approaching grand Imperial Assemblage at Delhi have almost entirely engrossed Lord Lytton's attention. He ought, however, to direct his thoughts now to the famine, which has already commenced to prevail with great virulence in Bombay and Madras. The writer also asks His Excellency not to request the Governors of these presidencies to attend to the durbar; for they, continuing in their respective presidencies, might seek means to check the fury of the famine.

SOMA PRAKASH,
October 30th, 1876.

20. A correspondent of the same paper writes, that though it has been provided in section 27 of Act VIII of 1869, that due punishment should be inflicted on those who give false depositions in court, yet this most salutary rule is oftentimes disregarded by judicial officers, who willingly let false witnesses go unpunished, even after having received clear proofs of the falsity of their depositions. This is highly unjust. Such indulgence is, doubtless, productive of very sad and pernicious effects to the country; and gives great encouragement to professional false witnesses.

SOMA PRAKASH.

21. The *Sahachar*, of the 13th October, writes that malarious fever has raged most fearfully this year in various places. It has made its appearance in Bally, Konnaggur, Serampore, and several other villages and towns in the Hooghly district. The Government should, without delay, direct its attention to the matter; for it is almost needless to say that, without its aid, many will fall an untimely prey to death.

SAHACHAR,
October 13th, 1876.

22. The same paper writes that the *Pioneer*, which is considered to be the mouthpiece of Government, is much against the restoration of the Berars to the Nizam; but we ask, has the editor forgotten what assistance the English received from the Hyderabad State during the last sepoy mutiny?

SAHACHAR.

23. The same paper also writes, that the famine has not only taken place in Bombay, but also in Madras and Mysore. So that, this year, the condition of almost the whole of the Deccan is most miserable. However, we hope that Lord Lytton will not be inactive, and that he will soon come down to Calcutta and adopt the promptest and most vigorous measures. We hear that His Excellency is a most generous and kind-hearted man, and that therefore he will, doubtless, endeavour to save millions of people from falling into the hands of death by every means.

SAHACHAR.

24. The *Urdu Guide* draws attention to the following case of tyranny and cruelty:—a *Musalman*, by name Hashmat Ali, who lets out carriages on hire, was on bad terms with a serang. The latter watched his opportunity and finding the stable unoccupied on the night of the 22nd October, went in and after cutting a horse on the back with a knife, went away. *Hashmat Ali*, soon after this occurrence, gave information to the police, fearing that his other horses might share the same fate, but no notice was taken.

URDU GUIDE,
October 21st, 1876.

25. The Editor of the *Behar Bundhu* remarks that the eyes and thoughts of almost every one are fixed on the forthcoming Delhi Durbar. He then goes on to narrate briefly the principal events which occurred there, and its past history, till a certain class of men, professing themselves to be traders, made their appearance; but at the time, neither they nor any one else dreamt that these same persons would one day become the possessors of Hindoostan. These are the English, who are about to assemble at Delhi all the princes and nobility from the various parts of India; and amongst those obliged to be present, will be the Rájpoor princes of Jyepore and Udeypore, the Mahrattas of Gwalior and Indore, the

BEHAR BUNDHU,
November 1st, 1876.

Seiks of Kashmir and Patiala, and the Muhamadans of Cabul and Hyderabad. In time past, there was a day when Judhishtir, after defeating the several rajahs, caused them to assemble within the city of twelve-gates to grace his triumph; and the 1st of January 1877 will be the next similar grand occasion, when Queen Victoria, after defeating the sons and grandsons of Judhishtir, will have the princes to grace her triumph.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 4th November 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 4th November 1876.

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Weekly ...	17th September 1876.
2	"Sambád Bháskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	23rd October 1876.
3	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
4	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
6	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
7	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
8	"Pratikár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
9	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	29th ditto.
12	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	30th ditto.
13	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	30th ditto.
14	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	31st ditto.
15	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	30th October to 2nd November 1876.
16	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	26th October to 3rd November 1876.
17	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	28th October 1876.
18	"Jám-Jahán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
19	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	25th October and 1st November 1876.

Bengal Secretariat Press.